

I would like to voice my support for this petition. In light of the changes worldwide that have been initiated via the events of WRC-03, this request seems to make the most sense. CW is an integral part of Amateur radio service and testing needs to be maintained. However, CW is only just a mode. The influx of new digital modes over the last couple of decades has lessened the importance of CW. The proposal by the ARRL still maintains the code requirement for the highest levels. That makes sense.

I think this proposal will actually end up increasing CW proficiency. There is very little CW activity in the bands that Technician licensees can currently operate. Having the chance to actually try to take part in CW transmissions would be an impetus to many. I know that my forays into various digital modes have been the direct results of various qso's in these modes.

I would agree that the testing needs to be made more difficult if this petition is accepted. Overall, I do not see where the degradation of the service will occur if this happens. I actually hear more poor operation from currently licensed operators in the HF bands than I encounter in VHF bands. I think this idea would be an overall boost for the service. It will bring in new operators who are interested in advancing the service.